seats for students belonging to economically weaker sections in unaided private schools in Delhi, which have been allotted land by the government agencies. The High Court of Delhi *vide* its order dated 30.5.2007 has directed that such schools shall admit 15 per cent students of the weaker sections. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has reported that out of 390 schools which were given land at concessional rates, 245 schools have fully complied with the orders, 139 schools have partially complied, 3 schools have not provided any information, 2 schools are not functioning and 1 school has been derecognized.

**Effects of price rise on Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

218. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mid-Day Meal Scheme is badly Effected by the high price rise in essential commodities;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to mitigate crisis;

(c) the immediate steps that are being taken by Government to provide good food to children; and

(d) if not, the reasons for various State Governments asking to increase Mid-Day Meal Budget in view of the price rise and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In order to offset the impact of price rise, the Government decided in September, 2007 to enhance cooking cost by 5% every second year starting from the year 2008-09. Accordingly, with effect from 1.4,2008, the cooking cost was raised from Rs.1.80 per child per school day to Rs.1.89 at primary stage and from Rs.2.30 to Rs.2.42 at upper primary stage in North-Eastern (NE) States. Similarly, it was enhanced from Rs.1.50 to Rs.1.58 at primary level and from Rs.2.00 to Rs. 2.10 at upper primary level in case of all other States/UTs. NE States are required to contribute minimum Rs. 0.20 and other States/UTs Rs. 0.50. However, some States/UTs are contributing more than their minimum share. On the requests of various states/UTs to further enhance the cooking cost, a National Level Committee was constituted to review *inter alia* the cooking cost norm. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee and the Expenditure Finance Committee, a proposal to revise the cooking cost and other related issues has been sent to the Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

**Universalisation of secondary education**

219. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious enough for universalising secondary education so as to enhance higher education which is critical for development;